MCNEIL LATTICE I 02/25/83 104954 PRINTER: NG
82 SAN SALVADOR 2646 DECLASSIFIED
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EXCISE

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ACTION OCS-06
INFO CCT-00 ADS-00 AMAD-01 CA-01 /008 W
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R 2714352 MAR 82
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6788
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CASC
SUBJECT: V/V JOHN J. SULLIVAN
1. ANOTHER LETTER ARRIVED AT EMBASSY 3/26/82. LETTER IS DATED MARCH, 1982. ROUGH TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:
2. BEGIN TEXT. MR. AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES. YOU RECEIVE THE MOST CORDIAL GREETINGS. I WANT THROUGH YOU TO DENOUNCE BEFORE ALL THE SALVADORAN REPUBLIC THE FOLLOWING: THE CAPTURE OF THE AMERICAN JOURNALIST JOHN J. SULLIVAN WAS DONE BY RETIRED MAJOR ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON IN THE COMPANY OF TWO HEAVILY ARMED GUARDS DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES. ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON SAID THE CRIME THE JOURNALIST COMMITED WAS TO STAIN THE IMAGE OF EL SALVADOR WITH HIS PHOTOS AND REPORTS THAT HE SENT ABROAD, AND TO SAY THE TRUTH OF WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE RIGHT NOW IN EL SALVADOR IS PROHIBITED AND FOR THIS HE WOULD SEND THEM TO SILENCE THE MOUTH. TWO MORE CRIMES WERE DIRECTED BY D'AUBUISSON. WHEN COL. CLARAMONT LAUNCHED HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE PRESIDENCY HE HAD A MEETING IN LIBERTAD PARK. WHEN THE NATIONAL POLICE ARRIVED, THEY BEGAN TO SHOOT AND KILL PEOPLE. WHAT I WANT TO SAY IS THE FOLLOWING: IF THE TWO JOURNALISTS KILLED THAT DAY WERE AMERICANS. THEY WERE AT THAT MOMENT TAKING PICTURES WHEN D'AUBUISSON ARRIVED WITH TWO NATIONAL GUARDSMEN AND SIGNALIZED WITH HIS
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FINGER AND THE GUARDSMEN MACHINEGUNNED THEM AND THEY FELL

DEAD TO THE GROUND. I WITNESSED THIS TRAGEDY. THE GUARDSMEN WITH THE STOCKS OF THEIR RIFLES BROKE THE REPORTER'S CAMERAS AND TOOK THE FILM. I HOPE AN INVESTIGATION WILL FOLLOW BECAUSE I AM NOT SURE OF THEIR NATIONALITY. BUT I AM GOING TO GIVE YOU THEIR DESCRIPTION. THEY WERE VERY TALL, FAIR SKINNED, BLUE EYES, LIGHT BROWN HAIR, WELL DRESSED AND WITH THEIR TAC CAMERAS. END TEXT.
3. THE LETTER WAS SIGNED, BUT THE ONLY NAME READABLE IS [redacted] THERE WAS NO RETURN ADDRESS ON THE ENVELOPE.
4. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, SULLIVAN NEVER SENT ANY PHOTOS OR REPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES.
5. BEST INFORMATION AT POST INDICATES D'AUBUISSON WAS IN GUATEMALA DURING DECEMBER 1980.
6. CLARAMONT RAN FOR PRESIDENT IN 1982. WE HAVE NO
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 3/9/84
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐ in part ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS B6

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INFORMATION ABOUT ANY JOURNALISTS BEING KILLED DURING THE CAMPAIGN. OUR RECORDS SHOW NO AMERICANS WERE KILLED IN ANY DEMONSTRATIONS. HINTON

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